



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

SOUTHERN AFRICA

REGIONAL PROFILE



USAID supports Southern African farmers to produce and market high value nontraditional export crops, such as the honeybush for tea that this woman is harvesting. The market for honeybush is expanding by 20 percent per year as consumer interest in natural herb products has grown worldwide.

SOUTHERN AFRICA SNAPSHOT

Eleven Countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Population: 155 million
Income per person: \$1,117 (yr)

USAID IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

www.usaid-rcsa.org

OVERVIEW

The United States has four main interests in Southern Africa: increasing trade and strengthening economic ties with the region, mitigating the region's HIV/AIDS crisis and recurrent food insecurity, and strengthening democracy to reduce the risk of conflict in the region. USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) was created in 1995 to promote sustainable growth in a democratic Southern Africa. Located in Gaborone, Botswana, the RCSA implements regional development activities and provides a range of services to USAID missions in the region to assist with country-level development programs.



PROGRAMS

EXPANDING TRADE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Southern African countries recognize that increased trade and open markets are the drivers of economic growth and poverty reduction. However, because of policies and regulations that constrain trade and increase costs, the region is not competitive in world markets. In addition, the private sector needs help to produce goods and services that meet the standards of global markets. USAID established the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub (the "Trade Hub") in Gaborone, Botswana, in June 2002. The Hub builds regional capacity for negotiation and implementation of trade agreements. An Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) advisor at the Trade Hub facilitates U.S.-Southern Africa business links and advises on national AGOA export strategies. In the priority sectors of agribusiness, textiles and apparel, and tourism, the Trade Hub identifies bottlenecks to market growth and promotes international business links. The Trade Hub supports regional efforts to reduce high transaction costs, which hinder the cross-border movement of goods and services. Finally, the Trade Hub strengthens the capacity of the private sector to analyze policy and regulatory constraints to trade.

DIVERSIFYING RURAL LIVELIHOODS

The persistence of chronic hunger, malnutrition, and threat of famine in Southern Africa is unacceptable and its cost is enormous, particularly in a region reeling from the effects of HIV/AIDS. People in rural areas depend directly on agriculture and agriculture-related activities for their food and

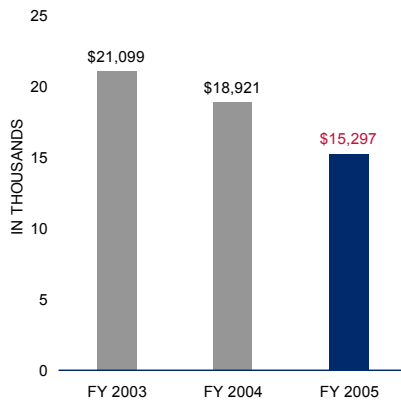


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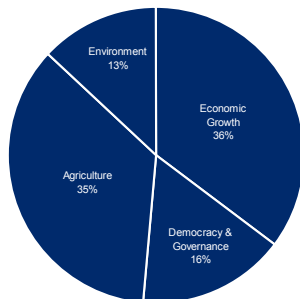
SOUTHERN AFRICA

REGIONAL PROFILE CONTINUED

RCSA ASSISTANCE TO SOUTHERN AFRICA



Percent of FY 2005 Budget for Each Area



Economic Growth: \$5,400,000
Democracy & Governance: \$2,456,000
Environment: \$2,023,000
Agriculture: \$5,418,000

(Source: FY2006 Congressional Budget Justification)

income. USAID's regional program focuses on production support services, market support services, and famine and disaster early warning and mitigation. USAID is helping small-scale fruit and vegetable farmers to supply the formal markets. For livestock and seafood, USAID supports the adoption of sanitary and quality control systems in processing plants, as well as market development. USAID also seeks to diversify the agricultural production of resource poor farmers in order to increase their resilience to economic and climatic crises.

IMPROVING MANAGEMENT OF SHARED RIVER BASINS

Water scarcity in Southern Africa is a growing concern. Population growth and growing demands for domestic, farm, and industrial consumption are increasing stress on finite water resources. Seventy percent of the region's watersheds are shared between two or more countries. USAID is focused on improving the management of shared river basins, starting with the Okavango River Basin. USAID is strengthening the Okavango River Basin Commission to help it manage the river and its resources in a fair and sustainable manner.

INCREASING ELECTORAL COMPETITION

Southern African leaders have long endorsed democratic norms, practices, and procedures. However, the lack of citizen participation in political processes impedes competition within the political system. Governance is suffering from inadequate checks and balances. USAID promotes free, fair, and open elections in Southern Africa. USAID supports the efforts of regional partners to increase the accountability and transparency of electoral processes, improve compliance with regional election standards, and reduce election related conflict and human rights abuses.

SUPPORT FOR WASHINGTON INITIATIVES

The RCSA serves as a regional platform for several U.S. Presidential and Agency initiatives, specifically the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Initiative, the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa, the Anti-Corruption Initiative, and the Conflict Initiative.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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